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## NOTES

### AN EMENDATION

I have always been puzzled by the sentence which, in the first edition of the *Physiologische Psychologie*, leads over from the discussion of Consciousness to that of Attention. The first clause is awkwardly worded; the explanation, so far as I can see, does not explain; and the psychology is assuredly not that of the Wundt we know. One may say, of course, that Wundt did not always write impeccable German; that what is a non-sequitur to us may to him, with his associations thick upon him, have been a good argument; and that in 1874 he had not settled down to any very stable psychology. One may say, also, that the whole matter has today only an antiquarian interest. I have said all these things to myself, and have remained unsatisfied. Now, at last, I think I have the key to the passage: I believe that a slightly different sentence stood in Wundt's manuscript, and that the sentence as we read it embodies a correction made while he was going over his paged proofs.

The printed sentence is as follows. "Indem das Bewusstsein in der Synthese der Empfindungen und in der Association der Vorstellungen sich selbst als ein thätiges erfasst, entsteht jene Aeusserung desselben, welche wir *Aufmerksamkeit* nennen." "In the synthesis of sensations and in the association of ideas consciousness apprehends itself as active: hence (*i.e.*, by way of this apprehension of its own activity) arises that manifestation of consciousness which we call *attention*." I believe that what Wundt originally wrote is as follows. "Indem das Bewusstsein in der Synthese der Empfindungen und in der Association der Vorstellungen ein thätiges Erfassen aufweist, entsteht jene Aeusserung desselben, welche wir *Aufmerksamkeit* nennen." I cannot, naturally, be sure of the verb; but my hypothesis requires a short verb meaning 'shows,' 'exhibits,' and *aufweist* does very well. "In the synthesis of sensations and in the association of ideas consciousness displays an active apprehension: hence (*i.e.*, by way of this activity of apprehension) arises that manifestation of consciousness which we call *attention*." This I take to be good German, sound argument, and true Wundtian doctrine. I believe that Wundt changed it, on the printed page, to the sentence that appears in the book. Why should he have made the change?

One must remember the circumstances: that Wundt had been working under pressure of time, that he was very tired, that the whole theory of apperception—at any rate, so far as this book is concerned—was an afterthought. I think, then, that Wundt, when he read his sentence in proof, had an uneasy feeling that it was not adequate to his intended transition. He was introducing a second systematic thread into his psychology; sensory integration was henceforward to be paired with attention. He had just been saying that consciousness is, essentially, synthesis; now he was to break away from synthesis. But was the original sentence sufficient? Might not an unfriendly critic find fault with its logic? "Indem das Bewusstsein in der Synthese der Empfindungen und in der Association der Vorstellungen ein thätiges Erfassen aufweist,"—might not the unfriendly critic finish it by writing: "entstehen diejenigen Aeusserungen desselben, die wir Sinneswahrnehmung und Associationsgesetz nennen,"—something of that sort? But then one would be back again in synthesis, and the step to attention would still remain to be taken.

The imaginary critic would, no doubt, have been wrong,—wrong, and either careless or obtuse. Wundt, however, was very tired, as I have said,

and was also exceedingly anxious to make his point. The conscious activity which underlies attention must be thrown into sharp contrast with the conscious act of synthesis; the introductory clause must differentiate as well as connect. And so I think that Wundt, whose logical acumen had been dulled by the same fatigue that made him oversensitive, sought at the last moment to clinch his argument by raising the activity of attention to a higher level of consciousness. If synthesis occurred on one plane, and apperception on another, there could be no doubt about the twofold basis of his psychology; and consciousness itself, as somehow active on both planes, would keep the psychology unitary. A muddle, —but, under the circumstances, a very natural muddle!

That is my hypothesis: and, if the reader is interested to prove it, I ask him not to do as I have done in this Note, not to confine himself to the structure and logic of the single sentence on p. 717, but rather to consider the whole make-up of Wundt's ch. xviii. If he is still not persuaded, I ask him to turn to the corresponding passage of the second edition.

E. B. T.

#### SERIAL EXPOSITION OF WALL-CHARTS

It is often convenient to be able to show a set of charts at the same place on the lecture-room wall,—whether because space is limited, or because all charts must be seen from the same angle, or because the charts in question form a series to be shown in a fixed order. The following device may be worth recording.

The foundation of the whole arrangement is a heavy wooden frame, like a picture frame; it may be of any convenient dimensions. This frame may carry the chart to be exposed last in order. The separate charts of the series are of heavy paper, to the top corners of which are attached rings of thin wire, extending approximately their full diameter (say, 2 cm.) above the edge of the paper. If these charts are of the same width, it is obvious that two supports will hold them all.

The distinctive feature of our arrangement is the substitution of screws rotated by pulleys for the ordinary hooks. The screws pass through the upper strip (2.5 cm. thick) of the wooden frame. Their forward ends (points) are blunt; their backward ends (heads) are fastened to pulleys, which are set flush with the back of the strip. If a spindle is turned down on the head of each screw, the shoulder of the spindle prevents the screw from passing out of the strip at the back, and the pulley at the back prevents the screw from coming forward. The screws are cylindrical, like machine screws; the grooves, however, are relatively deep and broad (about 3 by 3 mm.) and the interspaces are broad and flat (same dimensions). These dimensions are important, because the wire rings must ride smoothly in the grooves, without jumping out, and must be separated along the screw by sufficient space to prevent their interlocking.

On the back of the right-hand side-strip of the frame, low down so as to come within reach of the lecturer, are two pulleys fastened one above the other. A belt passes over the upper pulley to the screw-pulley at the top-right of the frame, and another belt passes over the lower pulley to the screw-pulley at the top-left.

The charts are hung on the frame in the reverse order of that in which they are to be shown, every ring riding in its own groove on the upper side of the screw. To remove a chart, the lecturer pulls the lower belt, rotating the left-hand screw one full turn. Every left-hand ring is carried forward in the groove, until the front ring drops down over the end of the screw. The lecturer catches the dropping chart, and pulls the upper belt, thus releasing the right-hand ring. After a few practice-trials, the charts come away smoothly and noiselessly.

For sudden or total exposures an ordinary roller-shade may be added. The fixtures are set in the front of the top strip of the frame, outside the screws, and the shade is let up and pulled down by a cord in the regular way. After a chart has been shown, the shade is drawn down, and the chart released from its supports under cover of the shade; then the shade is shot up for the next exposure.—

We have found that a light flat spring, resting along the upper surface of the screw, serves to hold the rings securely in place when they are set in the grooves. We have not found it possible to use a single pulley-belt; the slipping of the belt always, in our experience, allows one screw to rotate further than the other; with the result that the discharge of a ring over the end of one screw may happen twice before the other has discharged its first ring. We have tried to simplify the whole arrangement by using one central ring and one central screw; but, with charts of the size that we require, the twofold support is more satisfactory.

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#### THE TITCHENER COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME

A limited number of copies of the Titchener Commemorative Volume are left in stock. Since the sales to date have more than paid the costs of the edition, the Committee in charge of publication have decided to offer these remaining copies to psychologists at the reduced price of two dollars, postpaid. The proceeds of their sale, together with the balance already in hand, will be funded, and the interest will presently be used to establish a prize for meritorious work in experimental psychology.

The volume, which consists of 337 pages of the style and size of the pages of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHOLOGY*, contains eighteen studies in various departments of psychology, dedicated to Professor Titchener by colleagues and former students on his completion of twenty-five years of service to Cornell University.

Orders may be sent to D. R. Knight, Morrill Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

M. F. WASHBURN  
W. B. PILLSBURY  
K. M. DALLENBACH

#### A NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL PERIODICAL

We have received the first three parts of a new psychological magazine, *Psychologische Forschung: Zeitschrift für Psychologie und ihre Grenzwissenschaften*, edited by K. Koffka (Giessen), W. Köhler (Berlin), M. Wertheimer (Berlin), K. Goldstein (Frankfurt a. M.) and H. Gruhle (Heidelberg). The contents are as follows.

Bd. i., Heft 1, 2. 1921. W. KÖHLER. Zur Psychologie des Schimpansen. M. WERTHEIMER. Untersuchungen zur Lehre von der Gestalt. i. Prinzipielle Bemerkungen. D. WESTERMANN. Tod und Leben bei den Kpelle in Liberia. K. KOFFKA. Beiträge zur Psychologie der Gestalt. v. Untersuchungen über Bewegungs- und Verschmelzungsphänomene, von P. Cermak und K. Koffka. E. M. VON HORNOSTEL. Ueber optische Inversion. W. FUCHS. Eine Pseudofovea bei Hemianopikern. Referate: E. Rubin, Synopsilevede Figurer; Studier i psykologisk Analyse.

Bd. i., Heft 3, 4. 1922. K. LEWIN. Das Problem der Willensmessung und das Grundgesetz der Assoziation, i. A. PICK. Störung der Orientierung am eigenen Körper: Beitrag zur Lehre vom Bewusstsein des eigenen Körpers. G. MARZYNSKI. Sehgrösse und Gesichtsfeld. K. KOFFKA. Beiträge zur Psychologie der Gestalt. vi. Ueber die Veränderung von Vorstellungen (Gedächtnis und Gestalt), von F. Wulf. J. BORAK. Ueber die Empfindlichkeit für Gewichtsunterschiede bei abneh-

mender Reizstärke. W. KÖHLER. Ueber eine neue Methode zur psychologischen Untersuchung von Menschenaffen. Referate: A. Argelander, Beiträge zur Psychologie der Uebung, i. Uebungsfähigkeit und Anfangsleistung.

Bd. ii., Heft. 1, 2. 1922. E. LAU. Versuche über das stereoskopische Sehen. K. KOFFA. Beiträge zur Psychologie der Gestalt. vii. Experimentelle Untersuchungen über das Entstehen und Vergehen von Gestalten, von E. Lindemann. T. W. DANZEL. Die psychologische Bedeutung magischer Bräuche. K. LEWIN. Das Problem der Willensmessung und das Grundgesetz der Assoziation, ii. E. M. VON HORNBOSTEL. Bemerkungen zu einer "Grundfrage der Akustik und Tonpsychologie." Kleine Mitteilungen: Aus dem psychologischen Institut der Universität Giessen; Aus dem psychologischen Seminar der Universität Kiel. Referate: E. Kretschmer, Körperbau und Charakter; J. L. Entres, Zur Klinik und Vererbung der Huntingtonschen Chorea.

#### ERRATUM

In the article by H. E. Starr, "The Hydrogen Ion Concentration of the Mixed Saliva considered as an Index of Fatigue and of Emotional Excitation, and applied to a Study of the Metabolic Etiology of Stammering," published in the preceding number of the JOURNAL, the words *anion* and *cation* have by a printer's error been interchanged in two places: (1) last line of p. 397 and first of p. 398, and (2) lines 15, 16 of p. 398. We ask our readers to make the necessary correction.